



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION IX**  
**75 Hawthorne Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

Sylvia Vanderspek, Chief  
Air Quality Planning Branch  
Air Quality Planning and Science Division  
California Air Resources Board  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812

Dear Chief Vanderspek:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concurs with the State's request to exclude data showing an exceedance of the 1987 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) on September 7, 2020, at the Coso Junction monitoring site in the Coso Junction, CA nonattainment area pursuant to the Exceptional Events Rule (EER).

The submittal from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD), dated August 23, 2021, included documentation that the September 7, 2020 exceedance was caused by exceptional events due to the Creek and SQF Complex wildfires in California. After thoroughly reviewing the information you provided, we agree that the submittal meets the demonstration criteria and the schedule and procedural requirements in the EER. The basis for our concurrence is set forth in the enclosed technical support document. My staff will enter concurrence flags for these data into the EPA's Air Quality System database.

EPA's concurrence is a preliminary step in the regulatory process for actions that may rely on these data and does not constitute final Agency action. If EPA completes a notice-and-comment rulemaking for an action that is influenced by the exclusion of the PM<sub>10</sub> data specified in this concurrence, the State's demonstration and EPA's concurrence letter and accompanying technical support document would be included in the record as part of the technical basis for the proposed action. If we receive comments, we must consider and respond to those comments before taking final regulatory action. When EPA issues that regulatory action, it is a final Agency action subject to judicial review.

We recognize the amount of time and resources represented by this submittal and appreciate the sound technical analysis and collaborative approach used to develop the demonstration. If you

have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (415) 972-3183, or Gwen Yoshimura at (415) 947-4134.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Adams  
Director, Air and Radiation Division

Enclosure

cc (via email): Theresa Najita, CARB  
Phillip L. Kiddoo, GBUAPCD  
Chris Howard, GBUAPCD  
Chris Lanane, GBUAPCD